THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to suspend the following agencies from Appendix 'V' of the Hand Book of Procedures.

(i) M/s. Gulf Inspection International Co. (KSC),Kuwait.

(ii) M/s. Alex Stewart Internatioanl Corporation, Rotterdam.

(iii) M/s. BSI Inspectorate Ltd. Essex.

(iv) M/s. Shin Nihon Kentei Kyokai, Japan.

(v) M/s. Intertek Group Plc, London.

(vi) M/s. Bureau Veritas, Madagaskar.

(vii) M/s. WLSI Group and Affiliates, USA.

(viii) M/s. American Assessors (India) Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.

(c) and (d) The policy for import of metallic waste and scrap stipulates that the consignment should not contain any type of arms,ammunition, mines, shells, cartridges or any other explosive material in any form either used or other-wise. Certain instances were brought to the notice of the Government wherein false Pre-Shipment Inspection certificates had been issued and in some cases there was recovery of ammunition in the imported metal scrap. The Government has taken stringent action against these Pre-Shipment Inspection agencies listed under Appendix - V of the Handbook of Procedures by deciding not to accept the Pre-Shipment Inspection certificates issued by these agencies until a thorough investigation of the matter has been undertaken and conclusions are arrived at by following the due process of law.

Increase in import of agricultural products

2270. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of agricultural products has gone up during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken to bring down agricultural imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The details of import of agriculture products during the last two years are as under:

Value in *Rs. Crore*

	2003-2004	2004-2005
Import of Agriculture Product	18825.9	20185.8
(% growth over previous year)	(17.2%)	(7.2%)

(c) Import duties on a number of items including edible oils (both crude and refined), tea, coffee, copra and coconut, wheat, rice, maize, pulses, spices, arecanut and apple have been increased in the last 5 years wherever necessary.

Facilities provided to increase export

†2271. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic and other facilities are provided by Government to the units set up in different zones established to increase export in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) estimated value of economic facilities provided to these units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The major incentives offered to units in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to promote exports include duty free import/ domestic procurement of goods, exemption from Central Sales Tax on supplies made from Domestic Tariff Area, exemption from service tax and 100% income tax exemption for the first 5 years, 50% for the next 2 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for the next 3 years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.